

Message Text

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SUBJ: BULGARIAN REQUEST FOR AGRICULTURE TRAINING IN US

1. IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT BULGARIAN REQUEST TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA FOR USG ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING WORK PROGRAMS ON AMERICAN FARMS FOR BULGARIAN AGRICULTURE SPECIALISTS, DEPARTMENT AND USDA MAY BE INTERESTED TO LEARN HOW SIMILAR PROGRAM HAS DEVELOPED FOR ROMANIAN SPECIALISTS IN US.

2. ROMANIAN PROGRAM IS OUTGROWTH OF ROMANIAN REQUEST IN 1964 THAT DEPARTMENT ARRANGE ONE-YEAR WORK PROGRAM ON AMERICAN FARMS FOR FOUR HIGH-RANKING ROMANIAN AGRICULTURALISTS. THAT PROGRAM WAS ARRANGED BY DON CURRY OF USDA (NOW RETIRED), AT STATE REQUEST, AND WAS COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY DURING 1964-65 WHEN FOUR ROMANIANS SPENT ONE YEAR WORKING ON FARMS, TRAVELLING IN US, ALL AT GOR EXPENSE. AS INDICATION OF PROGRAM'S SUCCESS, OF THE FOUR PARTICIPANTS,

MICULESCU TODAY IS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, STEFAN IS DEPUTY MINISTER, THE THIRD IS IN CHARGE OF MINISTRY'S CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM, AND THE FOURTH IS A PRACTICING VETERINARIAN.

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3. WHAT ORIGINAL PROGRAM HAS SINCE BEEN GREATLY EXPANDED BY

STEFAN BURCA, WHO IN MID-SIXTIES WAS ROMANIAN AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON, AND TODAY IS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DIRECTORATE. THIS YEAR THERE ARE 38 ROMANIAN AGRICULTURALISTS IN THE US WORKING ON FARMS. THE PROGRAM IS ARRANGED THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL FARMERS ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION IN BERKELEY, CALIF., WHOSE PRESIDENT IS ALLAN GRANT. ROMANIAN PROGRAM COORDINATOR, OVIDIU DIACONESCU, RESIDES IN THE US WITH HIS FAMILY. UNDER CURRENT PLANS, THERE WILL BE 78 ROMANIANS IN THE US NEXT YEAR. PARTICIPANTS ARE ALL GRADUATES OF AGRICULTURAL HIGHER SCHOOLS AND MUST HAVE FIVE YEARS' PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE. THEY ARE ALL BEING TRAINED FOR MANAGERIAL POSITIONS IN AGRICULTURE AFTER THEIR RETURN FROM US. ALL CANDIDATES FOR THE PROGRAM STUDY ENGLISH IN ROMANIA PRIOR TO FINAL SELECTION, AND ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE MADE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDY W (CURRENTLY ONE OF

THREE) AND MEET AGE AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS ARE ACCEPTED. ROMANIANS PAY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BETWEEN ROMANIA AND NEW YORK, AND US LOCAL SPONSOR COVERS ALL INTERNAL US COSTS, INCLUDING INTERNAL TRAVEL AND GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE. PROGRAM HAS STATE (CU) APPROVAL. ALLAN GRANT ISSUES DSP-66 FORMS TO PARTICIPANTS.

4. ROMANIANS ARE PLACED ON MOSTLY PRIVATE FAMILY FARMS WHERE THEY PERFORM GENERAL FARM WORK. ROMANIANS GAIN PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN MODERN AMERICAN FARMING METHODS AT MINIMAL COST TO GOR. US FARMERS OBTAIN SERVICES OF WELL-TRAINED AGRICULTURAL SPECIALISTS WHO ASSIST WITH FARM WORK AND PROVIDE SCIENTIFIC COUNSEL.

5. BURCA BELIEVES THE PROGRAM CAN BE EXPANDED, BUT HE IS, OF COURSE, MAINLY INTERESTED IN OPPORTUNITIES FOR ROMANIANS. HOWEVER, THIS OR A SIMILAR PROGRAM MAY PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET BULGARIAN REQUEST.

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